



# 1000 Survival Garden Kits Project

*Empowering 1000 Women to Water and  
Food Security, and Self Sufficiency.*

An enthusiastic collaboration of Canadian, American  
and South African Rotary clubs and the Roll a Hippo  
Foundation

**Rotary**  
Club of Gibsons



PROGRESS REPORT - NOVEMBER 2022

# CONTENTS

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Thank You!.....                                       | 3 |
| Report Overview .....                                 | 4 |
| Survival Garden Kits & Hippo Water Rollers .....      | 5 |
| By the Numbers.....                                   | 6 |
| Participating Clubs .....                             | 7 |
| Fundraising and the Call to Action.....               | 8 |
| A Selection of a few Featured Projects .....          | 9 |
| • Community of Roosbloom, KwaZulu Natal               |   |
| • Nolukhanyo Township                                 |   |
| • A Collaboration with the East Coast (SA) Lions Club |   |
| • The Villages of Mophela and Driefontein             |   |
| • Umgibe Farming Organics                             |   |
| • Hillcrest Aids Centre Trust                         |   |
| • Phephile Primary School                             |   |
| • Zero 2 Five   |   |
| • Village of Taweni                                   |   |



VIDEO



Listen to Mbongeni Nzama tell her story on gardening for survival during the pandemic.  
<https://youtu.be/oOzGDMkxmBc>

# Thank You!

**A**s the pandemic, political unrest, climate change, and the drums of war fill our news feeds, we are most thankful for the clubs and individuals whose eyes and attention are drawn to those who are most vulnerable in this global chaos... women and children.

We continually see and hear from beneficiaries of hippo rollers and garden kits. The one chord linking them together are the smiles on their faces, and the thankfulness in their hearts, as they are empowered with an easier way to collect water, and the tools and seedlings to help them create food security.

We want their appreciation to flow to you, our donors, who make this project such a rewarding experience.

## 1000 Survival Garden Kits Committee:

### Rotary Club of Gibsons, Canada

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### eRotary Club of South Africa 1

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### Roll a Hippo Foundation, Canada

Linda Ryan – [linda@rollahippo.org](mailto:linda@rollahippo.org)

## A GENDER BENDER

*In the early 1500s, when the Europeans first explored Africa, they were met by men brandishing spears and the women carrying buckets of water on their heads.*

*It's now 2022 and the men carry cell phones and laptops. But the women are still carrying buckets of water on their heads. What's wrong with our priorities?*



## Our Local Project Suppliers:





## PROJECT OVERVIEW

*The head of the United Nations food agency warned that as the world grapples with rising food prices, escalating climate change, and political unrest, many countries in Africa are also "on the brink of a hunger pandemic" that could lead to multiple famines if immediate action isn't taken.*

IN MANY RURAL SETTLEMENTS in South Africa, women are the frontline workers. As the covid pandemic continues to upset the familiar community routines, unemployment, business failures, school closures, and social isolation have become the new reality. With little income and sparse government assistance, women are faced with providing food for their families by growing their own food.

This Rotary-driven project is providing **1000 women with a Survival Garden Kit** that includes a hippo water roller and the tools and seedlings to start small vegetable gardens. This is the most immediate and productive action we can take to help them create water and food security. Helping women establish survival gardens has short and long-term benefits:

- ❖ While the pandemic is still the immediate threat, its impact will be felt for years.
- ❖ Small homestead farming is doable and relatively easy (when water is readily available).
- ❖ While the need is immediate, a survival garden also creates food security for the future.
- ❖ Growing one's own food is not just self-sustaining; it's rewarding and empowering.
- ❖ A mother's drive to provide for her family is her core passion. What she needs is the 'how'.
- ❖ Simple tools and an easy way to transport water makes the Survival Garden Kit a viable option.





# SURVIVAL KITS & HIPPO ROLLERS



## *A Survival Garden Kit includes:*

- Hippo water roller - Moves 5x more water with ease.
- A shovel, rake and hoe
- Watering can
- Seeds and seedlings
- Compost, fertilizer
- How to Grow a Garden Guide
- Soap and sanitizer
- Full day training

### ► DID YOU KNOW?

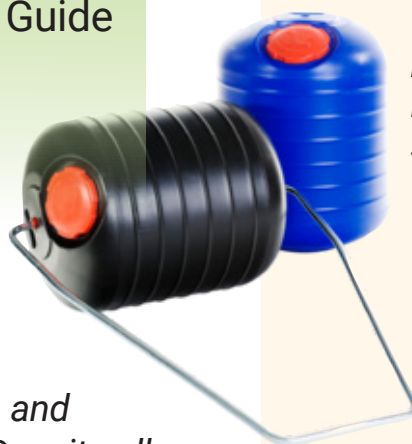
*The hippo water roller was developed in South Africa in 1992 and manufactured in Johannesburg. Despite all of its benefits, it is still virtually unknown.*

## THE HIPPO ROLLER IN 60 SECONDS

*View a 3-minute video that will flip your thinking on water, gender equality and women's rights:*

<https://youtu.be/R0PfmYA9nY4>

- A hippo water roller is basically a re-invented wheelbarrow designed to transport 90 litres (24 gallons) of water – about 200 pounds – by rolling it on the ground.
- The roller is made from one solid piece of UV-safe polystyrene. There are no seams or welds making it extremely durable.
- The weight is distributed over a large surface area so it does not create wheel ruts which leads to erosion.
- The roller's bevelled ends allows it to be easily tilted to an upright position for access, cleaning and storage.
- The handle bearings are made from virtually indestructible polyurethane ... They never wear out.
- The large fill cap allows for easy filling and cleaning.



- Using a hippo roller requires no training and the benefits are immediate. It does not require spare parts or maintenance and has a life span of 5-7 years.
- It's made from chemically-inert polystyrene making it safe for water and food storage.
- One trip to the water source using a hippo roller equals five trips with a bucket.

## BY THE NUMBERS - NOVEMBER 2022

Number of Rotary clubs participating 94

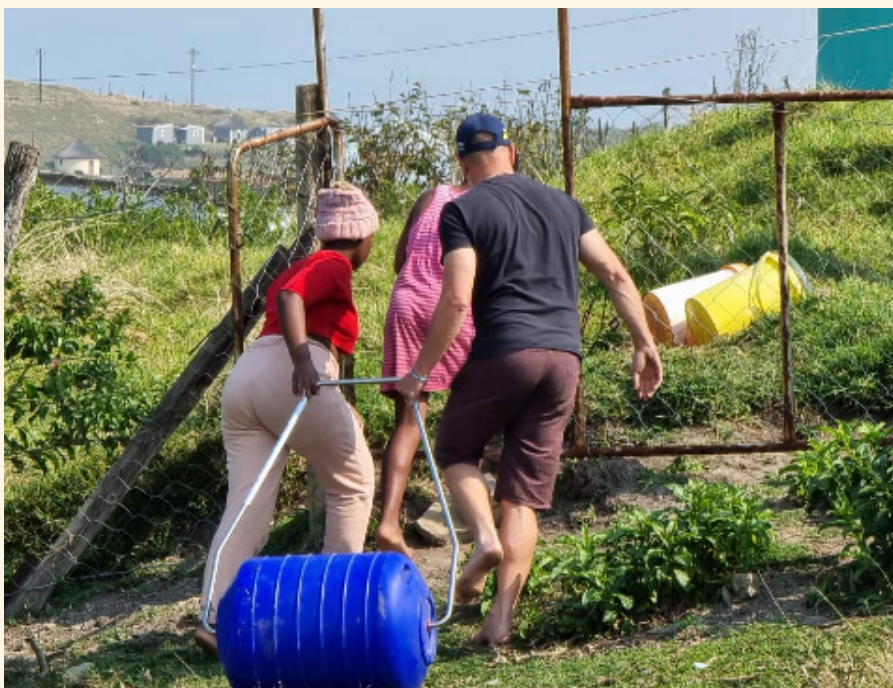
Amount of funds raised \$121,870

Number of Survival Garden Kits delivered 604

Number of communities assisted 16

Number of immediate beneficiaries 604

Total number of people impacted 4,832



## PARTICIPATING CLUBS - NOVEMBER 2022

### District 5040

> **Project Lead: RC Gibsons**

Bowen Island  
North Vancouver  
Pender Harbour  
PG Yellowhead  
Powell River  
Prince George Downtown  
Prince Rupert  
Quesnel Rotary Club  
Richmond Sunrise  
Sechelt  
Smithers  
Squamish  
Steveston (Richmond)  
Sunshine Coast Sechelt  
Vancouver Mountainview  
Vancouver Sunrise  
West Vancouver  
Whistler  
Whistler Millennium  
Williams Lake Rotary

### District 5020

Sooke

### District 5030

Seattle Rotary Service Foundation

### District 5010

First City Rotary  
Anchorage International  
Anchorage South Rotary  
RC Ketchikan  
Stika

### District 5050

Meadow Ridge  
Chilliwack Fraser  
Chilliwack Fraser Roteract Club

### District 5060

RC Kelowna  
Penticton Sunrise

### District 5080

Coeur D'Alene Sunrise  
Columbia Center  
District 5080 Passport Club  
Moscow Rotary Club  
Nelson Daybreak  
Ponderay  
Radium Rotary Club  
Radium Hot Springs Sunrise

Richland  
Rossland  
Castlegar  
Castlegar Sunrise 2000  
Colville  
Cranbrook  
Cranbrook Sunrise  
Creston Valley  
Grand Forks  
Golden  
Invermere  
Kimberley  
Nakusp  
Nelson  
Pasco-Kennewick  
Rossland  
Spokane Aurora NW  
Trail  
Waneta Sunshine  
eClub Waneta Sunshine  
District 5080 Charitable Fund  
District 5080 District Grant

### District 5300

RC Victorville

### District 5360

Calgary Centennial

### District 5370

Edmonton Whyte Ave

### District 5470

Snowmass Rotary Club

### District 5550

> **Project Lead: Winnipeg Downtown**

Winnipeg - Charleswood  
Winnipeg - St. Boniface-St.Vital  
Dauphin  
Saskatoon Downtown  
Saskatoon North  
Saskatoon Riverside  
Gimli  
Minnedosa  
Nipawin Passport  
Regina Eastview  
Selkirk  
The Pas  
Watrous  
Weyburn

### District 6330

St. Thomas Railway City

Goderich

### District 6360

Delton Area Rotary

### District 6450

Homewood Rotary

### District 7040

Ottawa Stittsville

### District 7070

RC Colborne  
Ajax

### District 7080

Oakville  
Guelph  
Shelburne

### District 7090

RC Hamilton AM  
St. Catherine's South

### District 7820

Halifax Harbour

### Interact Clubs

Sussex Regional HS Interac

### District 1260

RC Royston

### District 9370

> **Project Lead: RC Hillcrest**

Rotary E-Club of South Africa One  
Melmoth Ulundi  
Kwa Dukuza Zimbabwe  
Klerksdorp  
Gately  
Flamingo Welkom  
Ficksburg  
Phoenix  
Port Alfred



**OUR INTERNATIONAL  
PROJECT PARTNER**  
Rotary Club of Hillcrest,  
South Africa



## FUNDRAISING & CALL TO ACTION

Rotary clubs are built for this type of **International Community Service**: a collaborative project that leverages our global network of local clubs – wherever they are – to deliver community service and betterment.

**Come Join Us and Support this Empowering Project!**

### HOW CAN WE HELP?

- Make an immediate donation.
- Schedule a club presentation on the 1000 Survival Gardens Project and see the difference this innovation makes. **Simple idea. Massive need.**
- Make a commitment for your club to sponsor 1, 3, 5, 10 or more Survival Garden Kits. **It's easy and impactful.**
- Make it a larger club fundraising project. Leverage media for events that focus water, gender equality, etc. **It's empowering.**
- Share the project with Interact and Rotaract, schools, churches, social organizations, businesses and individuals. **Share and include.**
- Apply for a District Grant, if applicable.
- Post the project on your social media pages.

**A Survival Garden Kit cost  
US\$200.**

*Your donation includes delivery of the kit into the hands of an appreciative woman.*

*The Rotary Club of Hillcrest, South Africa manages all of the kit purchases and delivery logistics.*



### FOR MORE INFORMATION

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## PROJECT - Roosbloom, Kwa-Zulu Natal



### “Safe food today for a healthy tomorrow”

A collaboration between the **1000 Survival Garden Kits committee** and the **Roll a Hippo Foundation**, brought 30 women and men from Roosboom, outside Ladysmith, KwaZulu Natal, to participate in a Water and Food Security Training Program, which provided each beneficiary with a survival garden kit.

Weaving the standard program to bring a deeper emphasis on **World Food Day**, the group learned about minimizing waste, the impact of pollution, soil and water management, and how to grow indigenous foods for a healthy tomorrow. This group will continue with their training this month, with an intake of an additional 30 participants in November. Each participant receives basic gardening training, a hippo water roller, garden tools and seeds to start a garden!

Such joy to hear the ululation, witness the dancing, and see the deep appreciation as the participants rolled their hippos and kits home!





## PROJECT - NOLUKHANYO TOWNSHIP



In celebration of World Food Day, District 9370 Governor, Gavin Jepson was on hand to assist the Rotary Club of Port Alfred, SA with a handover of Survival Garden Kits to the Qhayiya Primary School vegetable garden project in Bathurst, Eastern Cape.

Local club advocate **Tori Stowe**, demonstrated her expertise in her facilitation of some 80+ vegetable gardens in the area which inspired the RC Port Alfred to assist her and the gardeners she is training and mentoring. The club fundraised and sponsored gardening tools, seeds, compost and hippo rollers to the garden workers at the local school. Such rewarding results!!





## PROJECT - EAST COAST LIONS CLUB



The **East Coast Lions Club** in South Africa collaborated with the **Rotary Club of Hillcrest** for a first-ever **1000 Survival Garden Kit partnership** between these two global service organizations. *As reported by Rob Campbell, RC Hillcrest, Durban, SA:*

“It was a bad start to the day! – there was no coffee, due to load shedding – but our day brightened when we arrived at **Hillcrest Aids Centre Trust (HACT)** to find their coffee machine brewing away!

Soon the group of East Coast Lions members, under the guidance of their **President Perry Chetty**, arrived to assist with the delivery of the survival kits.

**Candace Davidson**, the CEO of HACT introduced us to Phindiwe, who took us out to Inchanga in the Valley of 1000 Hills where the kits were handed over to the community.

We met with the Community Coordinator who guided us to our first delivery to Mrs. Dumeleni Kunene, who met us with a broad grin and was overjoyed when she saw us unpacking the kit. She was soon proudly displaying her homestead garden and answering everyone's questions.

We then departed to deliver Mrs Khanyisile Gumede. She burst into song when we arrived. Curious neighbors soon joined us as we were led to her garden where she boasted her chilli and garlic plants and generously handed out garlic seeds (with planting instructions) and shared her chillis with everyone.

Arriving back at HACT, everyone enjoyed some chai, lunch and great fellowship – with the **East Coast Lions** determined to support the project going forward!”





## PROJECT - The Villages of Mophela and Driefontein

Many thanks for the fundraising efforts of the **Rotary Club of Chilliwack Fraser** for their sponsorship of hippo rollers and garden kits to these two villages!

In May of 2022, 26 hippo rollers and survival garden kits were distributed to Mophela, near Mpumalanga Village, and 19 rollers and kits to the village of Driefontein, near Ladysmith, in the KwaZulu-Natal area of South Africa.

The women who received the rollers are currently involved in a **Food Security and Sustainable Agricultural Program**. Not only are they trained to grow vegetable gardens, their training also provides improved food security and resilience in crises like drought, increased income by selling produce, and influencing neighbours who are not part of the program. To achieve ultimate sustainability, they are encouraged to transfer to others the knowledge and skills they are learning.





## PROJECT - Umgibe Farming Organics

In late spring we delivered 25 hippo rollers to **Umgibe Farming Organics**, a small-scale agricultural development enterprise that aims to build and support thriving agricultural cooperatives of smallholder and women farmers, who are able to produce and sell sustainable quality agricultural products, by providing individuals with access to the Umgibe Farming System and Co-Operative Network and assistance to market gardens.

They take great pride in educating young and old on the benefits of organic farming. and their impact is felt by the over 40 co-operatives in their network and the thousands of people trained in their program.

Umgibe's **Stop the Hidden Hunger** campaign addresses and responds to the challenges experienced by school children, in particular girls. It provides solutions to hunger challenges in schools. It facilitates and promotes self – sufficiency in schools through various agricultural programs.





## PROJECT - Hillcrest Aids Center Trust

“

*On behalf of the team here at the Hillcrest AIDS Centre Trust (HACT), I would like to thank you for your recent donation of 109 Survival Garden Kits. These much needed supplies will go a long way to helping local families in need within our surrounding communities during these challenging and unprecedented times by supporting improved food security.*

Candace Davidson,  
CEO, Hillcrest AIDS Centre  
Trust

”





## PROJECT - Phephile Primary School



“

*Some of our Grade 4 students with our beautiful new hippo rollers. They all enthusiastically help getting the garden ready for planting.*

*Three months after the gardens had been planted, Happy Gabela, the school Principal at Phephile Primary School, reported that they had their first harvest of spinach and green beans and have sold R250 worth of produce. The R250 will be put back into the garden by way of seedlings so that the garden can be expanded.*

Jessica Rich  
Innovative Methodology NPC

”



## PROJECT - Zero 2 Five ECD



“

*Thank you kindly for your continued support of our Early Childhood Development schools. With Covid, food security is a massive threat and these hippo rollers and food garden starter kits are an impactful add-on for sustainability. Home-grown food for the children at these centres is a huge bonus.*

*I cannot stress this enough: it is not only the donation that is of importance here, it is also the thought and care behind this project. I applaud my team when they tell me the stories of appreciation and hope they hear from the ECD teachers. It creates an immense amount of hope and positive energy for them to know there are local people, and people from as far away as Canada and the USA, who know our plight, and care enough to help.*

Julika Falconer  
CEO, Zero2Five

”





## PROJECT - The Village of Taweni

In September 2021 a delivery of 75 hippo rollers and 25 Survival Garden Kits were distributed in the Village of Taweni, Mpondoland at the Wana Johnson ECD Learning Centre.

Comments from Rotarian and CEO of Learning Centre, Khaya Mposula: *"It rained all day yesterday but the weather cleared today and we had clear skies as we prepared the food for the handover of the hippo rollers and garden kits. Some of the women arrived early with hot beverages and sandwiches. The delivery truck arrived at 11 am and everyone pitched in to unload the kits. Afterwards we took a walk-about in the school demonstration garden and provided the women with training that covered companion planting, crop rotation, mulching and natural pesticides."*



FOR MORE INFORMATION OR REQUEST  
FOR A CLUB PRESENTATION:

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